

MTA-6001

2 January 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau -- December

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

STAT On 5 December, the Bureau assumed coverage of five East Jerusalem Arabic-language newspapers: AL-FAJR, AL-MITHAQ, AL-QUDS, AL-SHA'B, AND AL-TALI'AH. Bureau Persian Monitor [] has been made responsible for scanning and selecting from the East Jerusalem press. With the Bureau's assumption of coverage, the lag in receipt of these newspapers dropped from 1-7 days to 1-3 days, with items frequently selected and processed on the day of publication.

The Fifth Plenum of the Turkish Communist Party convened on 7 December. As in past years, the extensive coverage of the Plenum by the Clandestine Voice of the Turkish Communist Party led to a significant increase in wordage processed by the Bureau's Turkish Section. The section processed 24,130 words from VOTCP on the plenum alone, compared with 3,280 words processed from this source during the whole month of November.

STAT Gulf Bureau briefly assumed coverage of the Clandestine Persian radio National Voice of Iran and of Moscow Dari from 30 November to 1 December. Gulf had originally been scheduled to cover these radios from 30 November to 16 December during the Bureau Persian Monitor [] military leave, but [] military duty was postponed and Bureau was able to resume coverage.

C. Lateral Services

STAT On 16 December, Embassy Political Officer [] called to ask whether FBIS had monitored any reports on a Mubarak interview published by "a Kuwaiti newspaper" and containing "positive" comments on the Camp David Accords, the PLO, and other issues. Bureau located a MENA report (filed as NC152303) and a KUNA report (filed as LD161124) based on prereleased portions of a 16 December AL-SIYASAH interview. [] explained that the interview was needed for a briefing of Israeli Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Itzhaq Shamir by Ambassador Pickering the next morning. It was later learned that the items had proved to be "very useful." Ambassador Pickering had quoted directly from the items to support his contention that the Mubarak remarks contained positive elements.

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-2-

BBC Newsbureau's Callum Mackechnie thanked the Bureau for the "quite good stuff" filed on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and the Ivory Coast.

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

Cruising Monitor [] arrived at the Bureau on 5 December.

Two teletypists EOD'd during the month: [] on 8 December and [] on 22 December. However, [] resigned on 24 December due to personal reasons; a short career, even by the standards of the Bureau's notoriously restless Communications Section.

Bureau Chief [] was promoted to GS-14.

Editor [] was promoted to GS-9.

Teletype supervisor [] was promoted to FBN-7.

A champagne party honored [] for 10 years of service with FBIS.

Jerusalem Domestic Service on 15 December reported that the consumer price index rose by 0.5 percent in November, the lowest rise in the index for 9 years. Despite this, in accordance with earlier agreements and economic findings, Bureau received approval to implement a 4 percent cost of living increase in the base pay of FBN employees effective 1 December. Bureau also received approval for an additional 4 percent increase effective 1 January and a further 3.5 percent increase effective 1 February. Implementation of the increases is awaiting the results of embassy's wage survey.

B. Building and Grounds

The Bureau continued to have trouble obtaining reliable elevator service despite the site manager's promises to rectify the situation. The level of protest was raised to a direct appeal to Azorim's general manager which has resulted in improved service ever since.

Azorim has informed the Bureau that effective 1 January 1986, P.A.L. Management and Maintenance Ltd will take over responsibility for the maintenance of the building.

C. Other

Bureau Hebrew monitor [] visited Headquarters on 22 November on a 1-day TDY. [] was given a condensed but comprehensive tour and briefings on the major headquarters components and she described the experience as "very useful."

-3-

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Bureau Chief [redacted] and Deputy Chief [redacted] participated in a time-management workshop sponsored by the Embassy

III. VISITS

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Operations Group Deputy Chief [redacted] paid a 1-day visit to the bureau on 18 December. He was given a tour of the bureau and met with some of the Bureau staff and foreign national employees.

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[redacted]

Chief, FBIS Tel Aviv Bureau

Attachments: a. Production Report
b. Communications Report